

US011399648B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Lewis

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,399,648 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 2, 2022**

(54) **GARAGE DOOR PARCEL RECEPTACLE**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 3 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **17/069,382**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 13, 2020**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2022/0079365 A1 Mar. 17, 2022

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 62/913,727, filed on Oct. 10, 2019.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A47G 29/124 (2006.01)

A47G 29/22 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *A47G 29/1248* (2017.08); *A47G 29/1245* (2013.01); *A47G 29/22* (2013.01); *A47G 2029/1257* (2017.08)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC *A47G 29/1248*; *A47G 29/1245*; *A47G 29/12*; *A47G 29/126*; *A47G 29/20*; *A47G 29/14*; *A47G 29/124*; *A47G 29/22*; *A47G 2029/1257*; *A47G 2029/149*; *E06B 7/32*; *E05G 7/00*; *E05G 7/008*
USPC 232/22, 19, 43.4, 43.5, 44, 45; 109/19, 109/66

See application file for complete search history.

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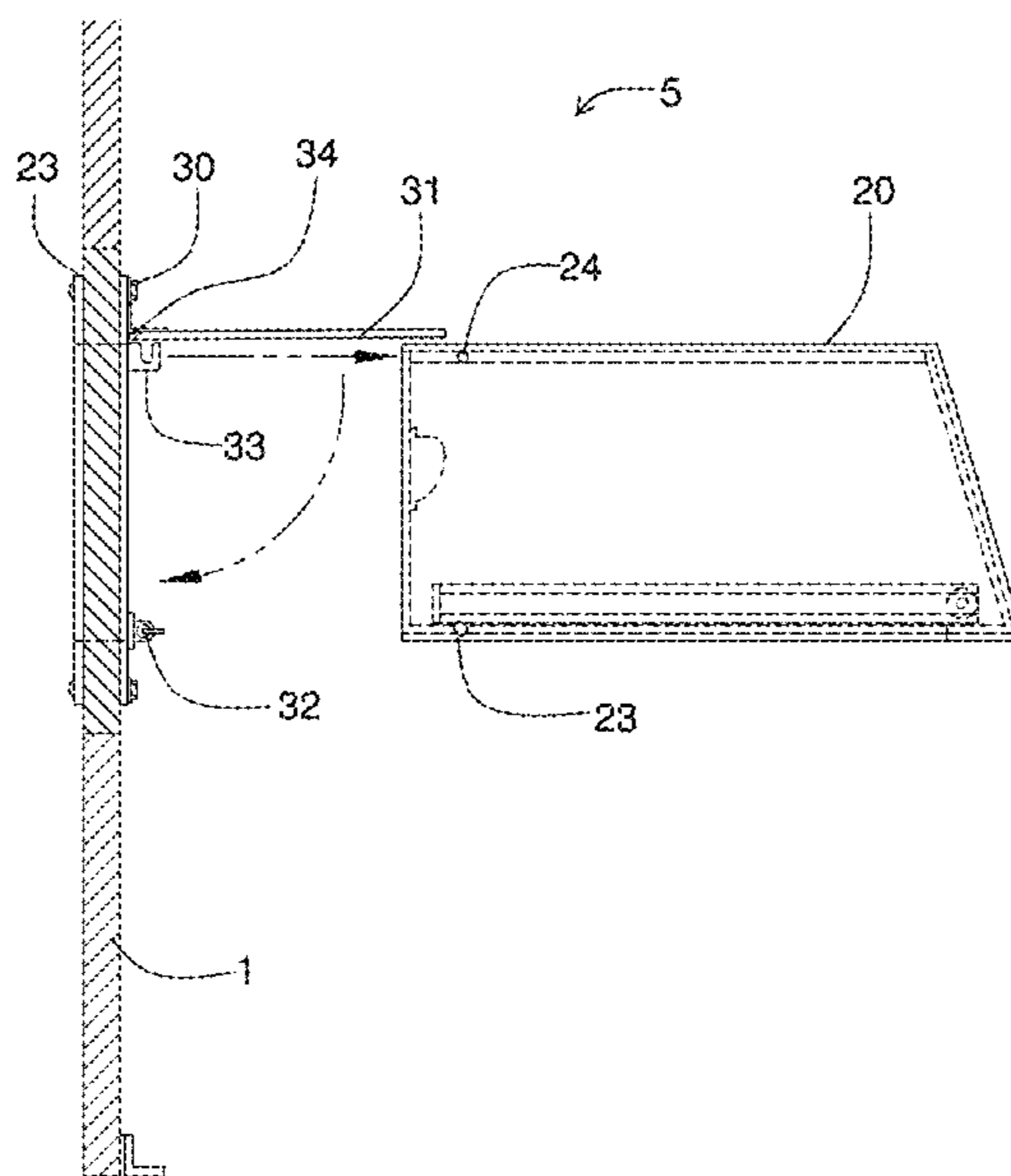
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a parcel receptacle device that allows for securely receiving packages and transferring the packages to the interior side of a wall or door which the parcel receptacle device is attached. This device is comprised of a plurality of elements including an interior mounting plate, an exterior mounting plate, a housing and a drawer. The housing and drawer may be detached from an interior mounting plate that is affixed to the wall or door. This device also provides an auto-locking door that automatically closes when the housing and drawing are detached. Accordingly, the auto-locking door securely closes the opening in the garage door, which previously allowed the drawer to slide through. The receptacle can later be reattached by unlocking the auto-locking door and then raising it upward. Once it is raised up to a pre-determined position, the housing and drawer may then be reattached to the interior mounting plate.

26 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



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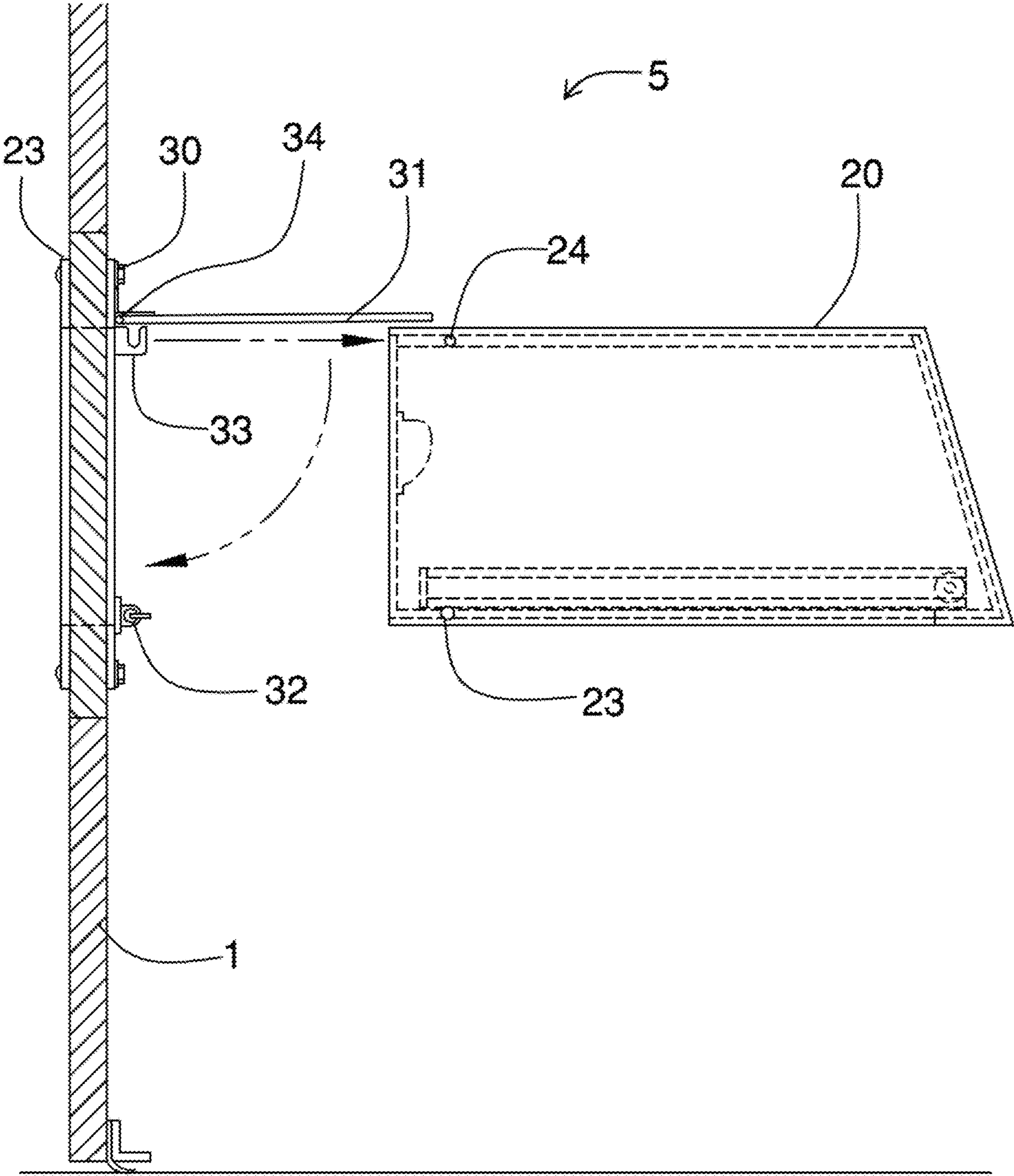


FIG. 1

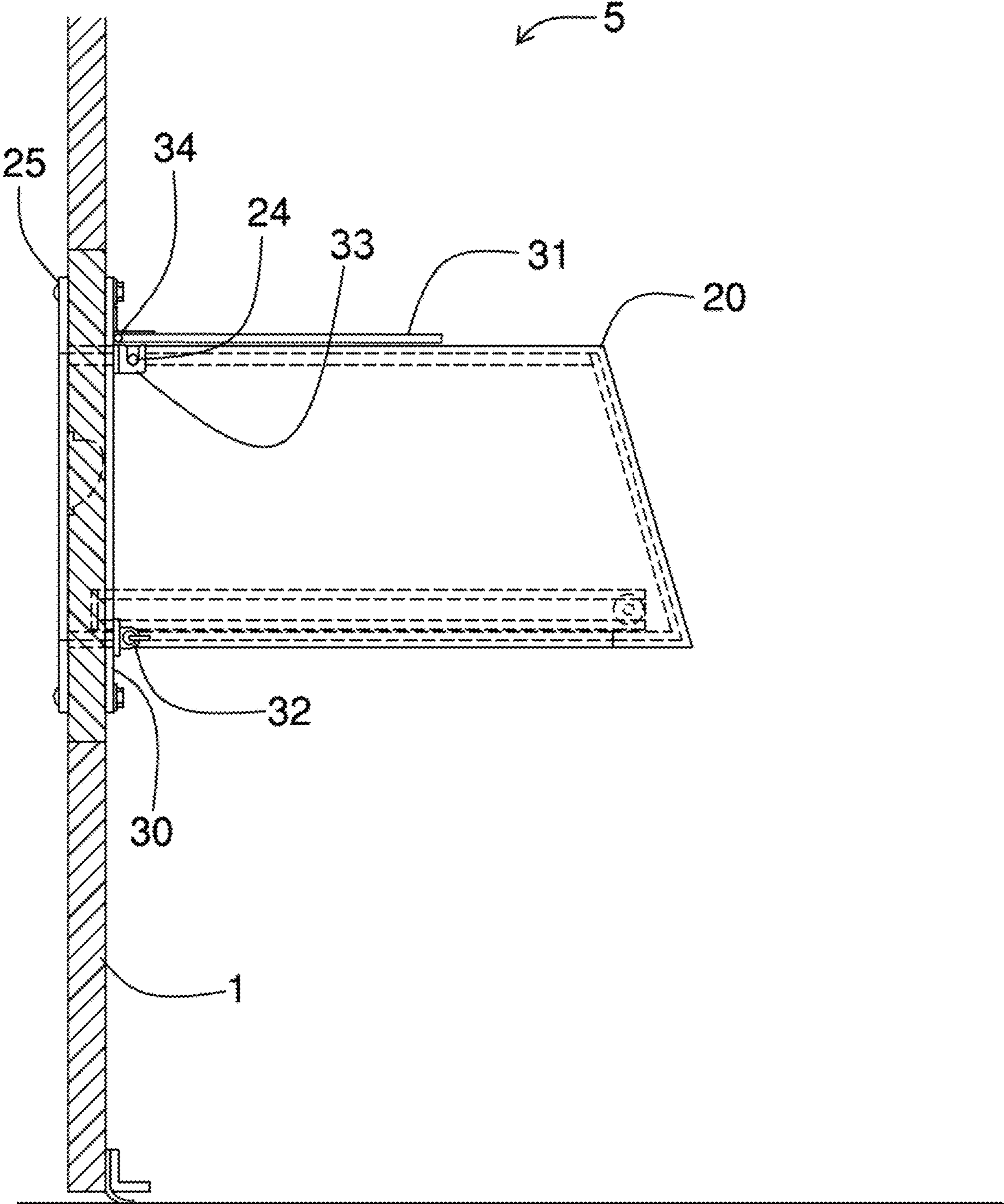


FIG. 2

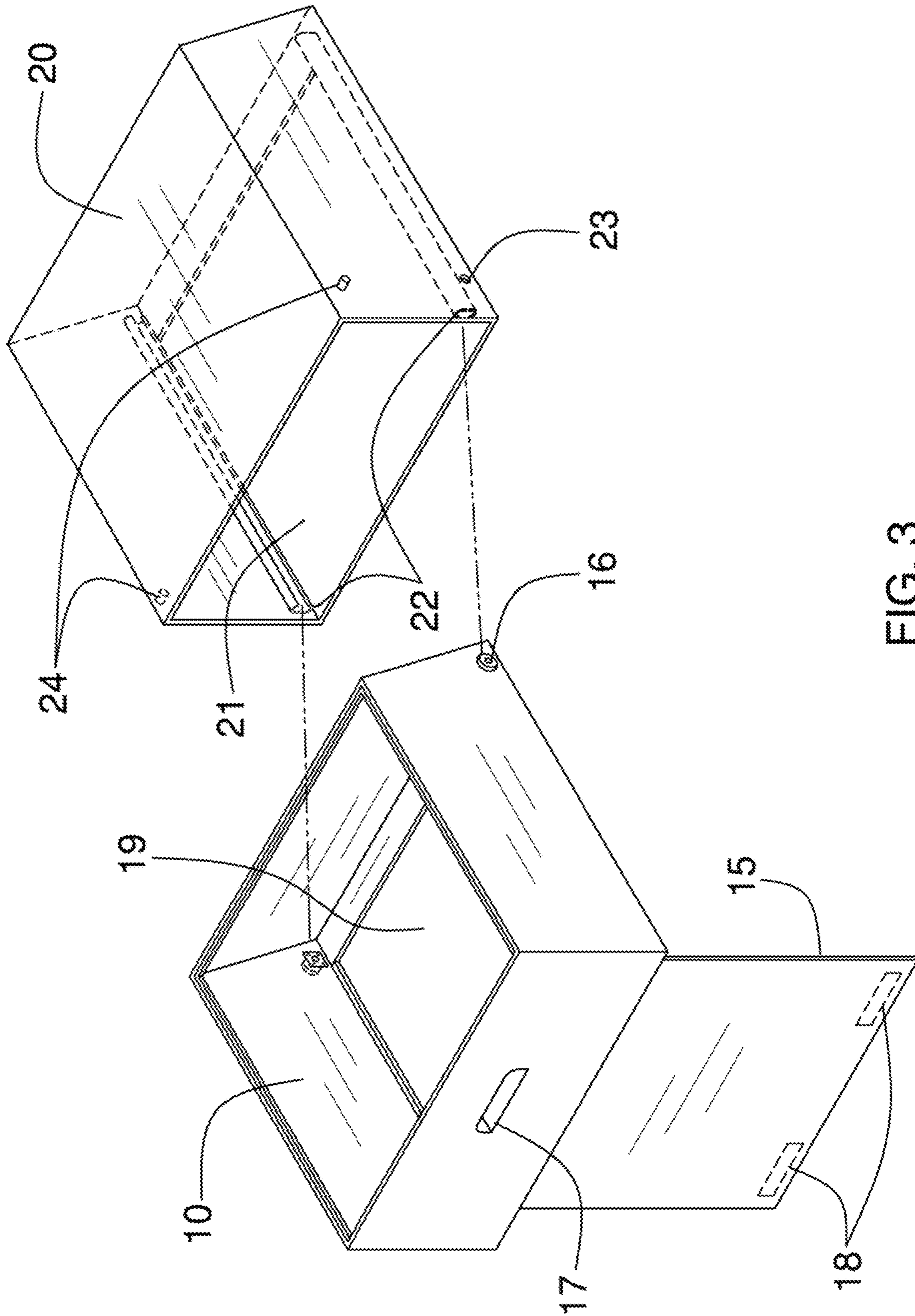


FIG. 3

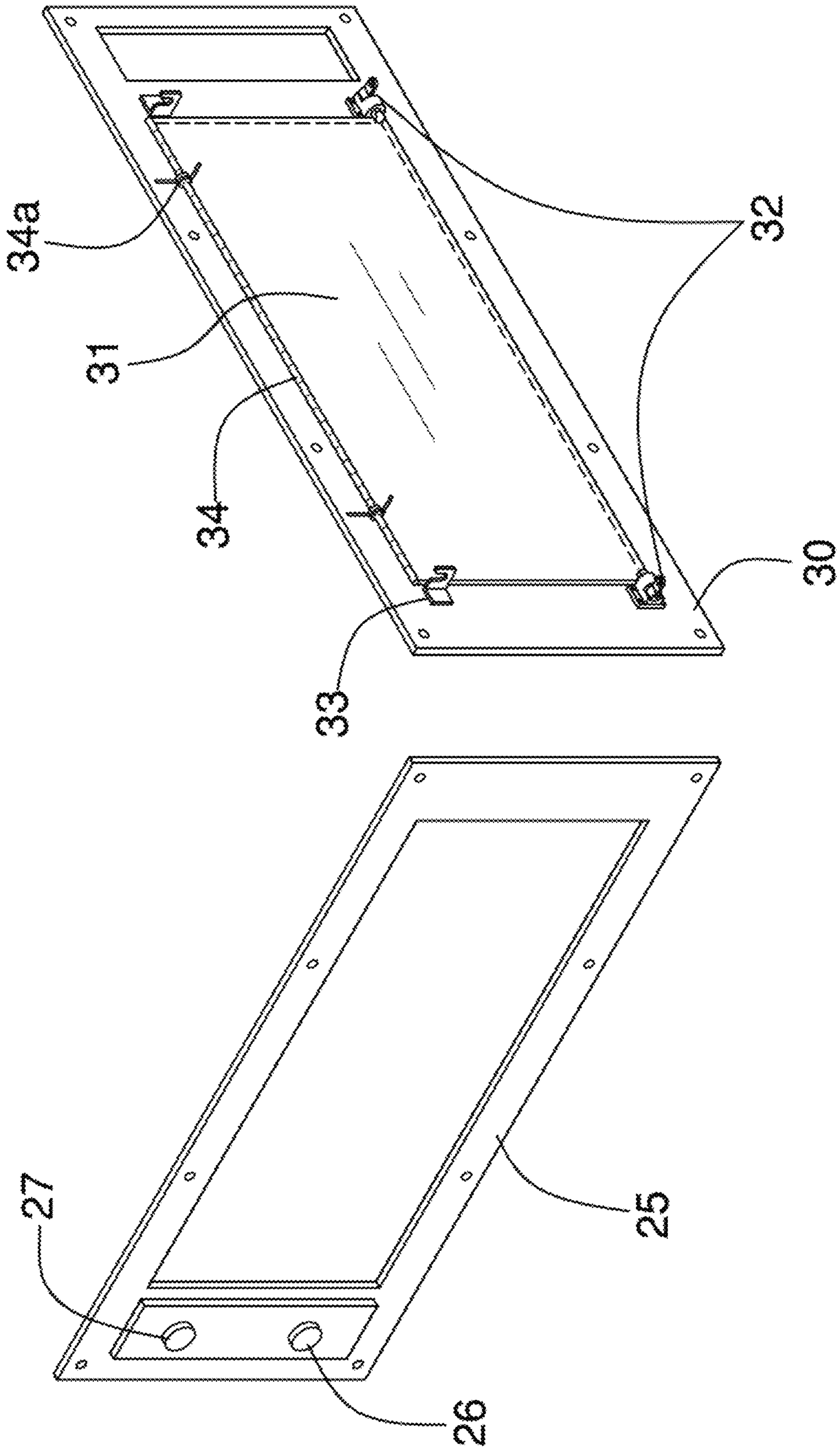


FIG. 4

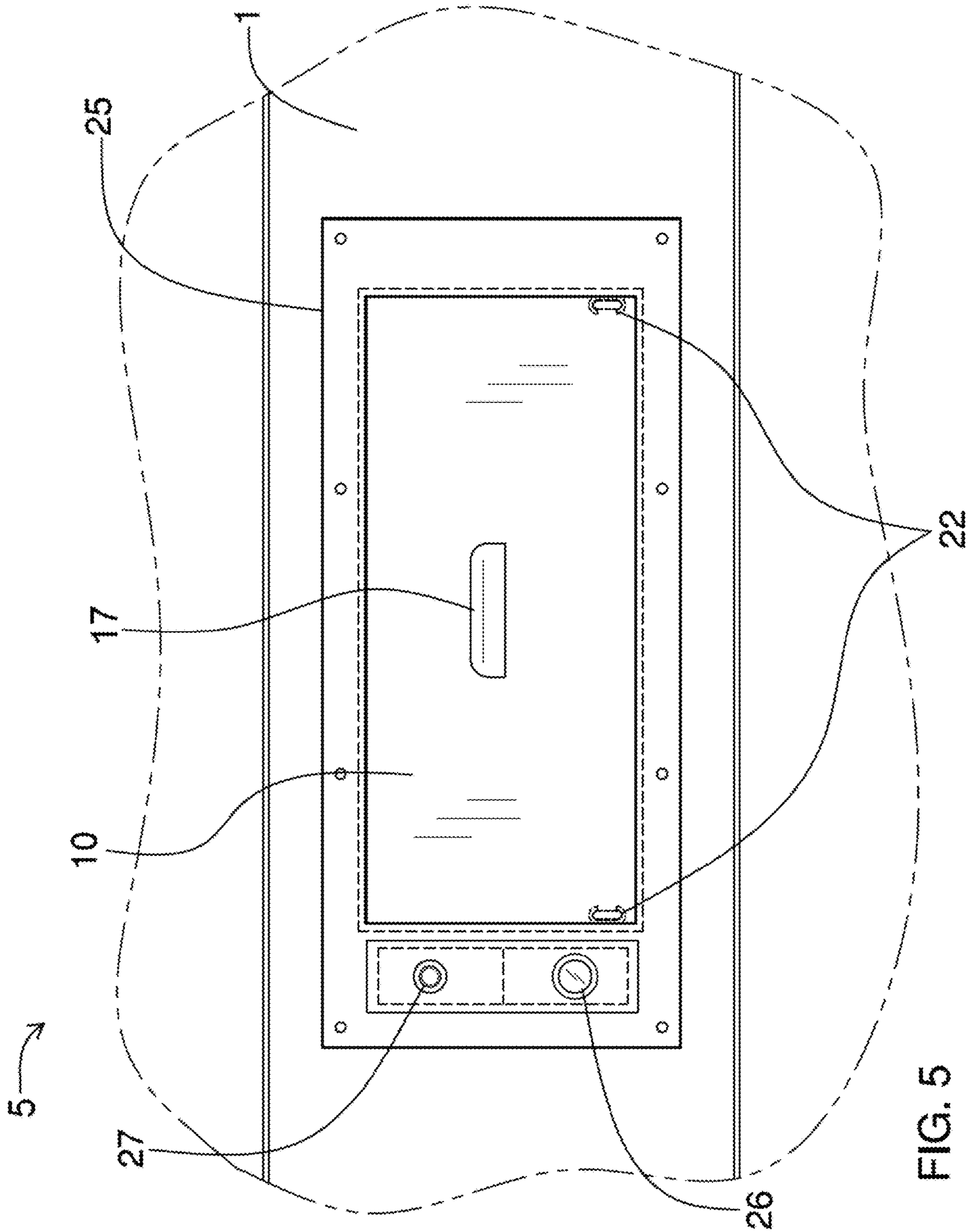


FIG. 5

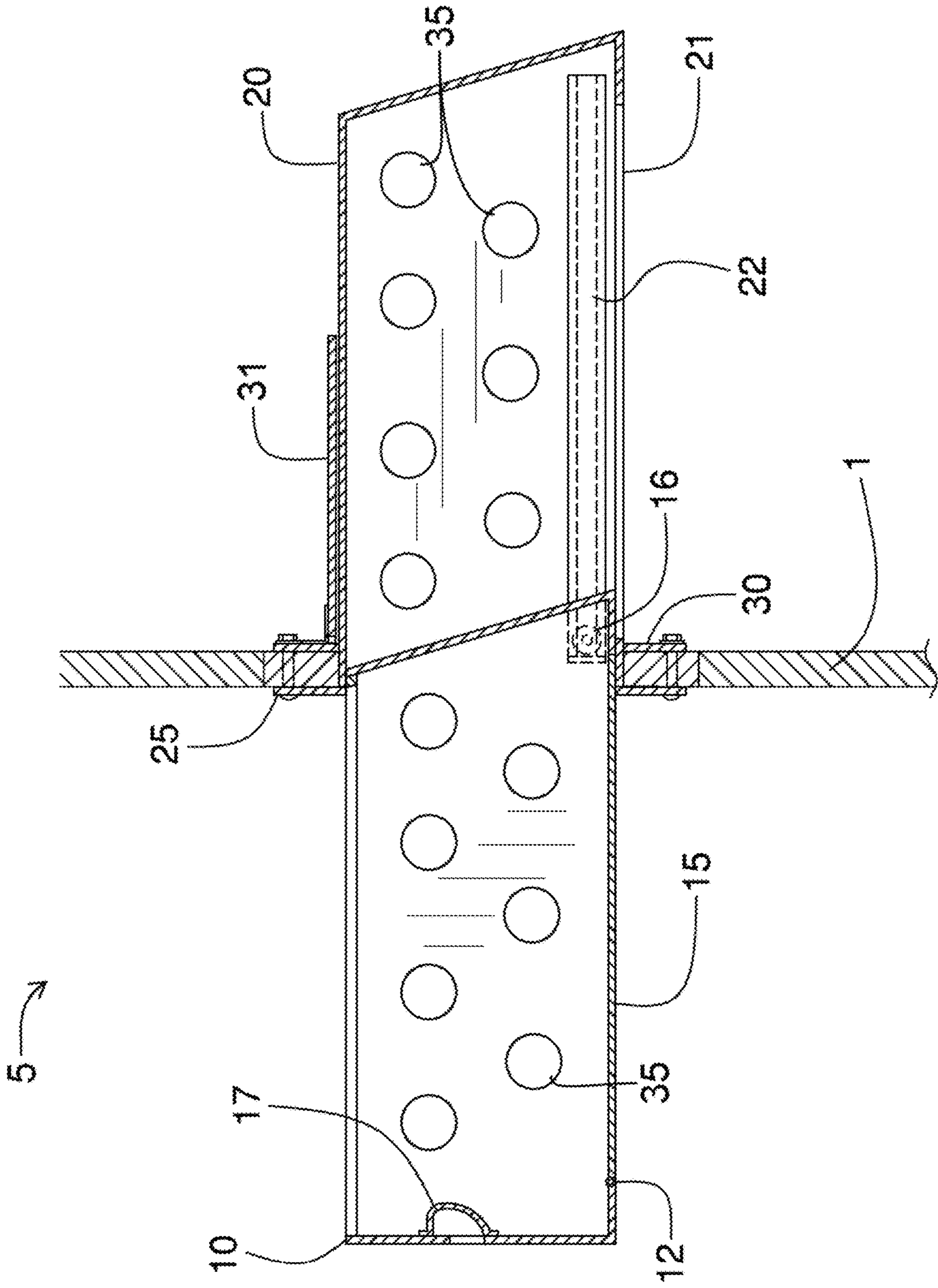


FIG. 6

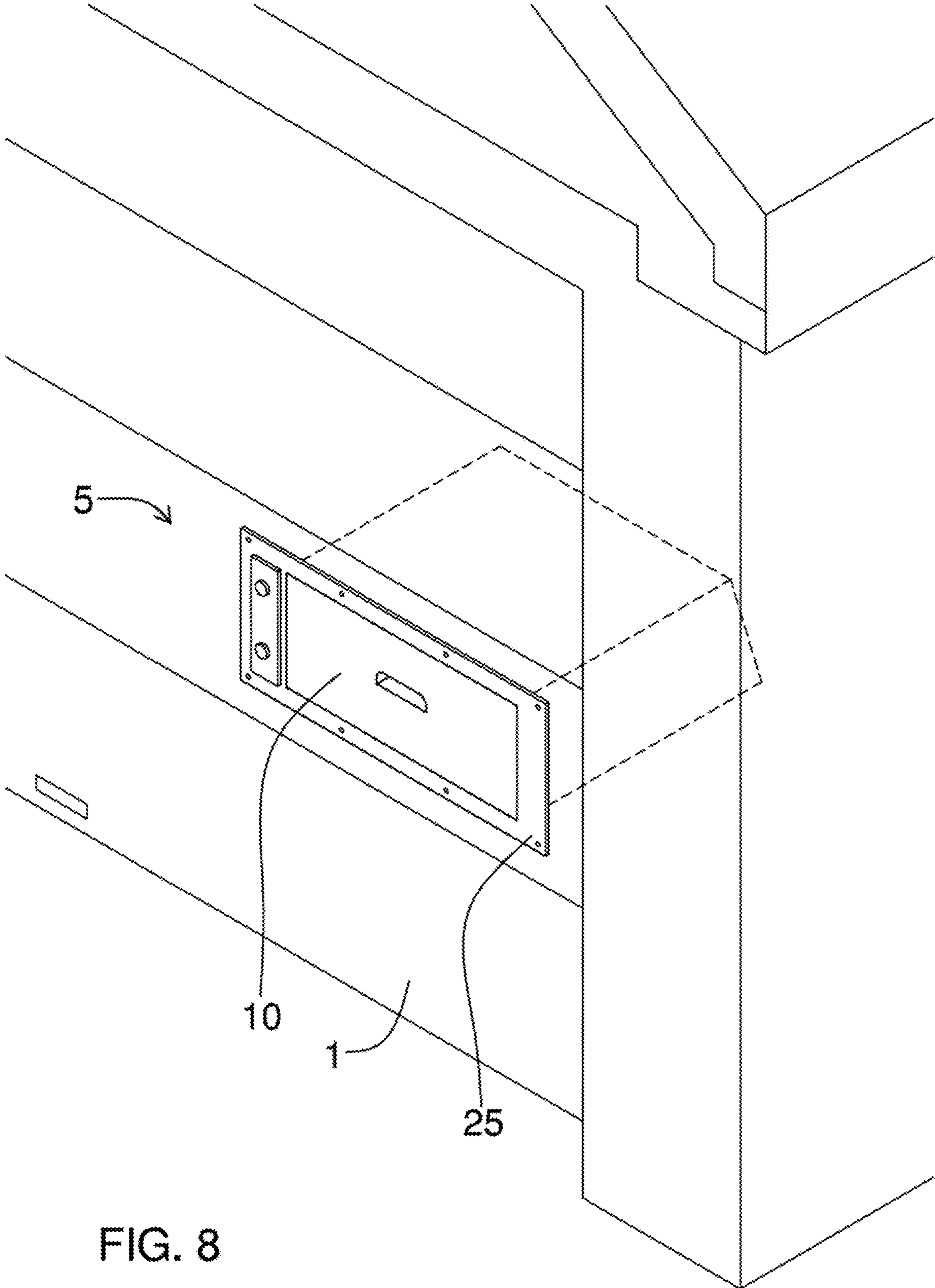


FIG. 8

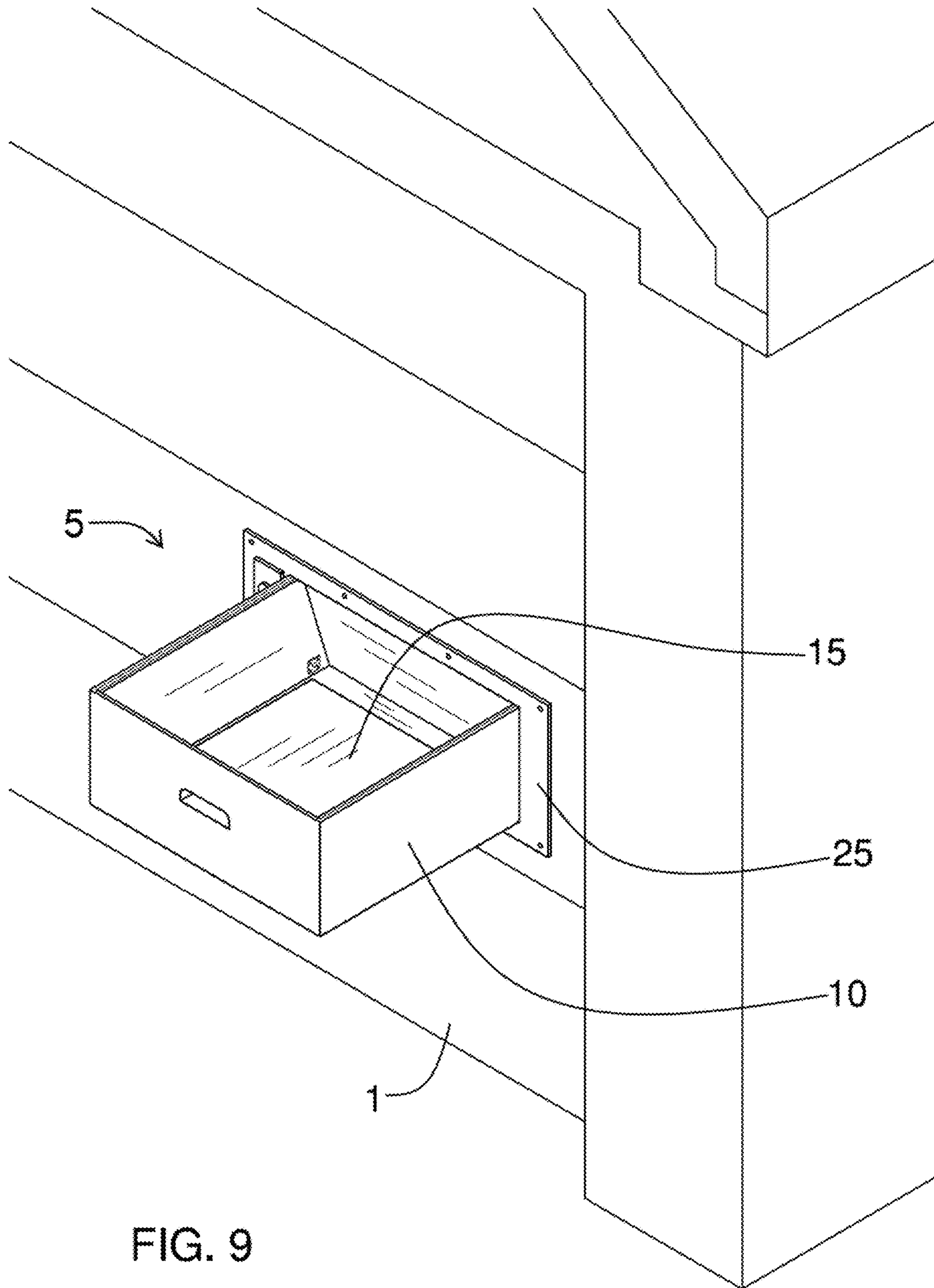


FIG. 9

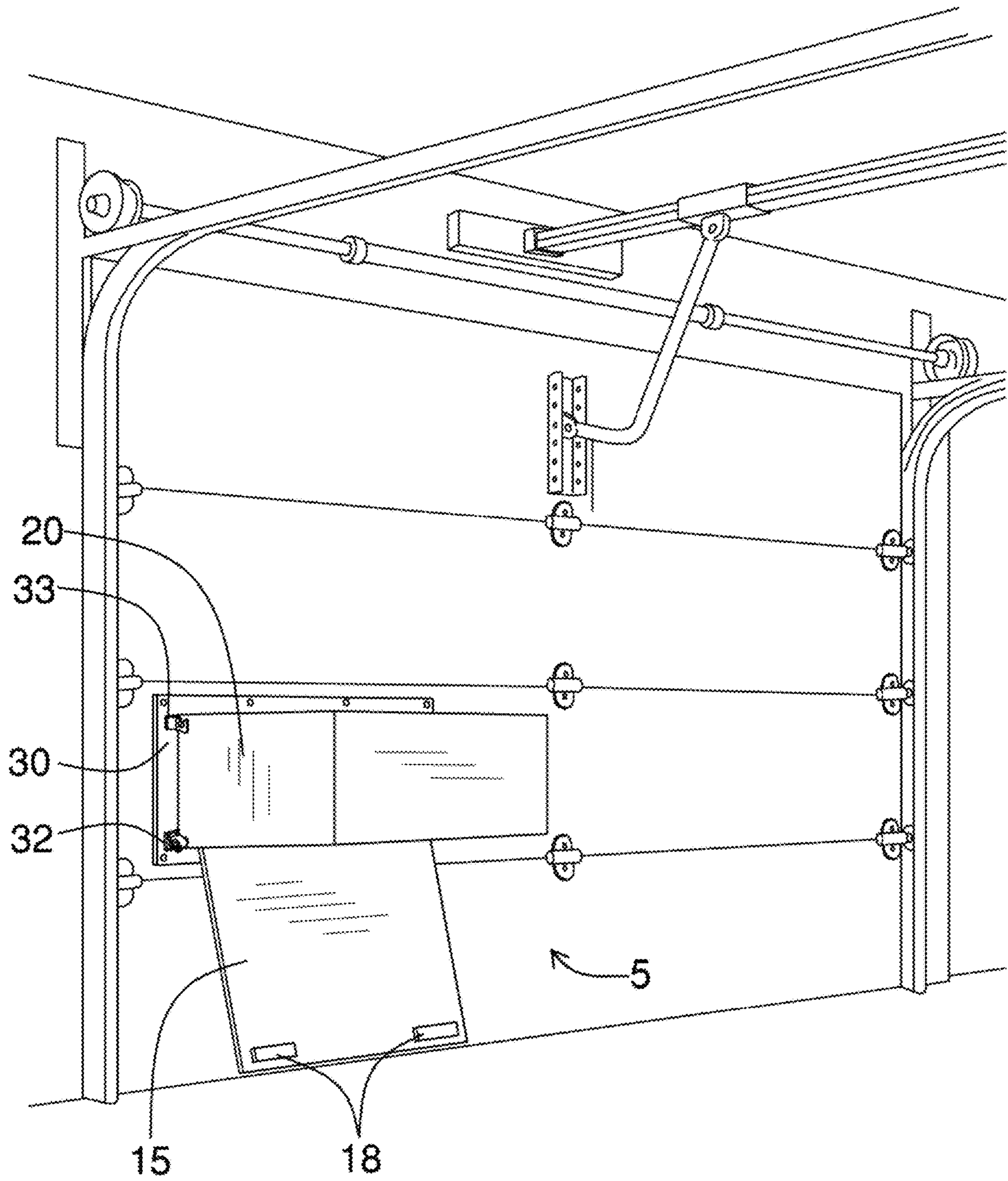


FIG. 10

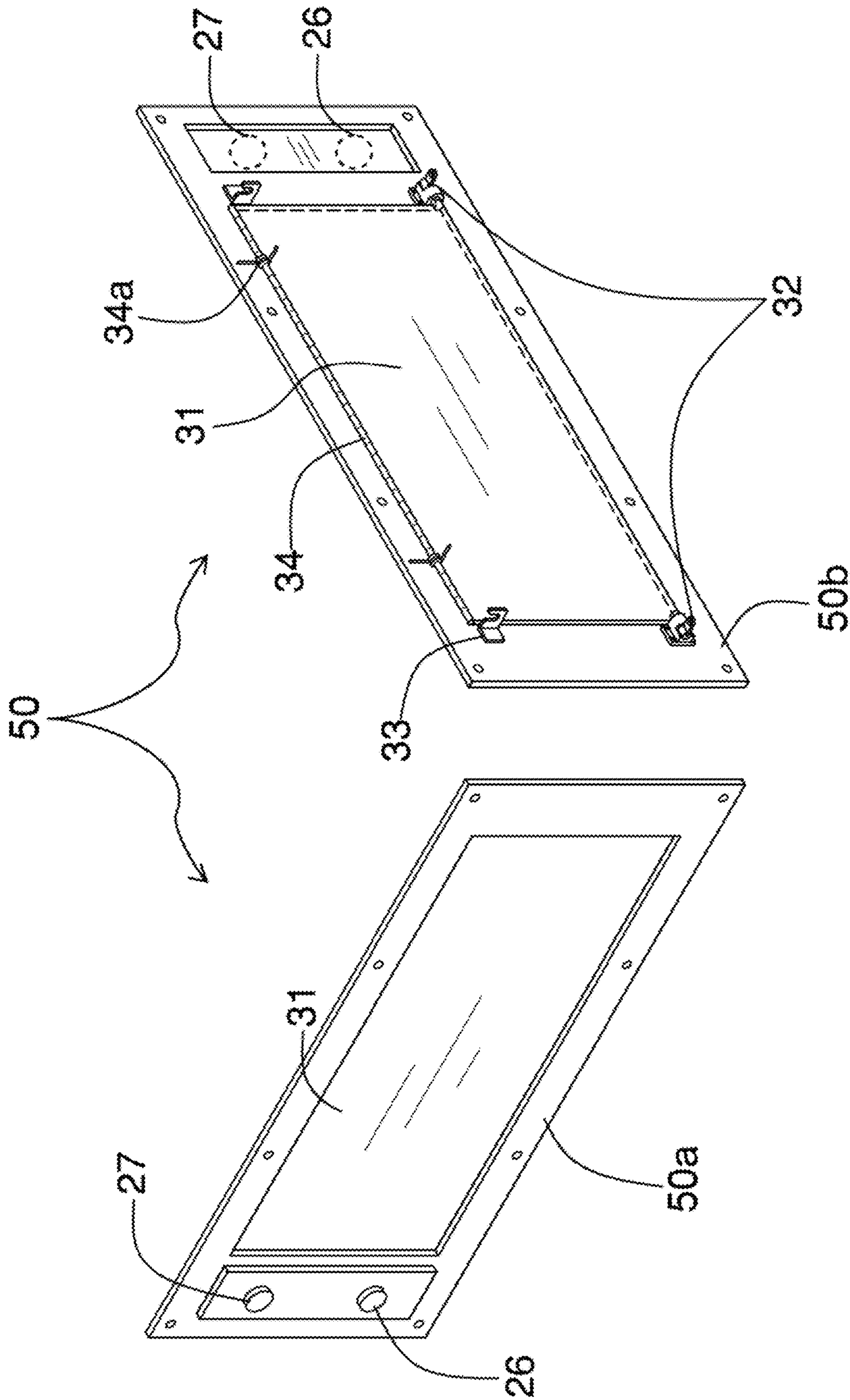


FIG. 11

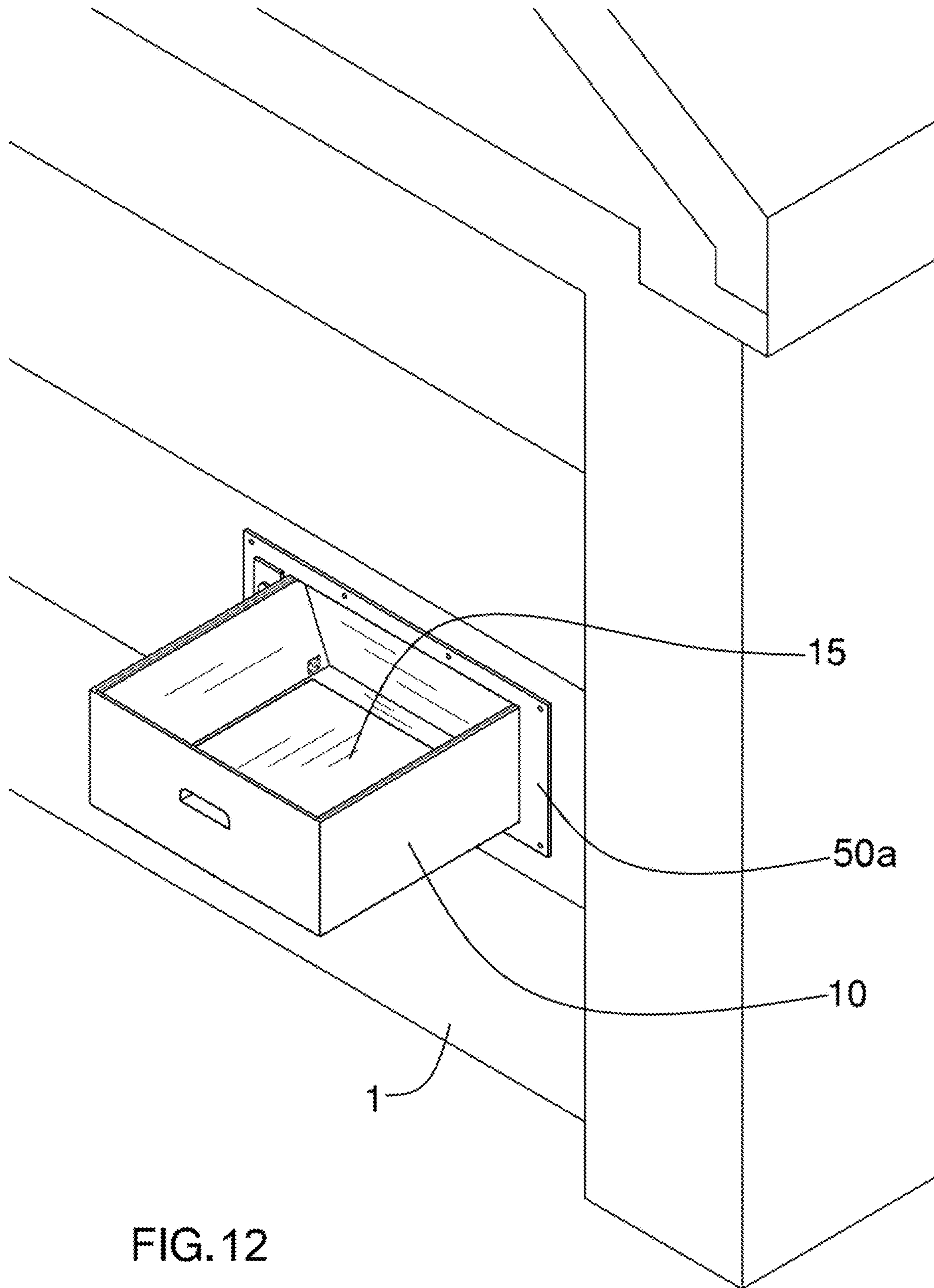


FIG. 12

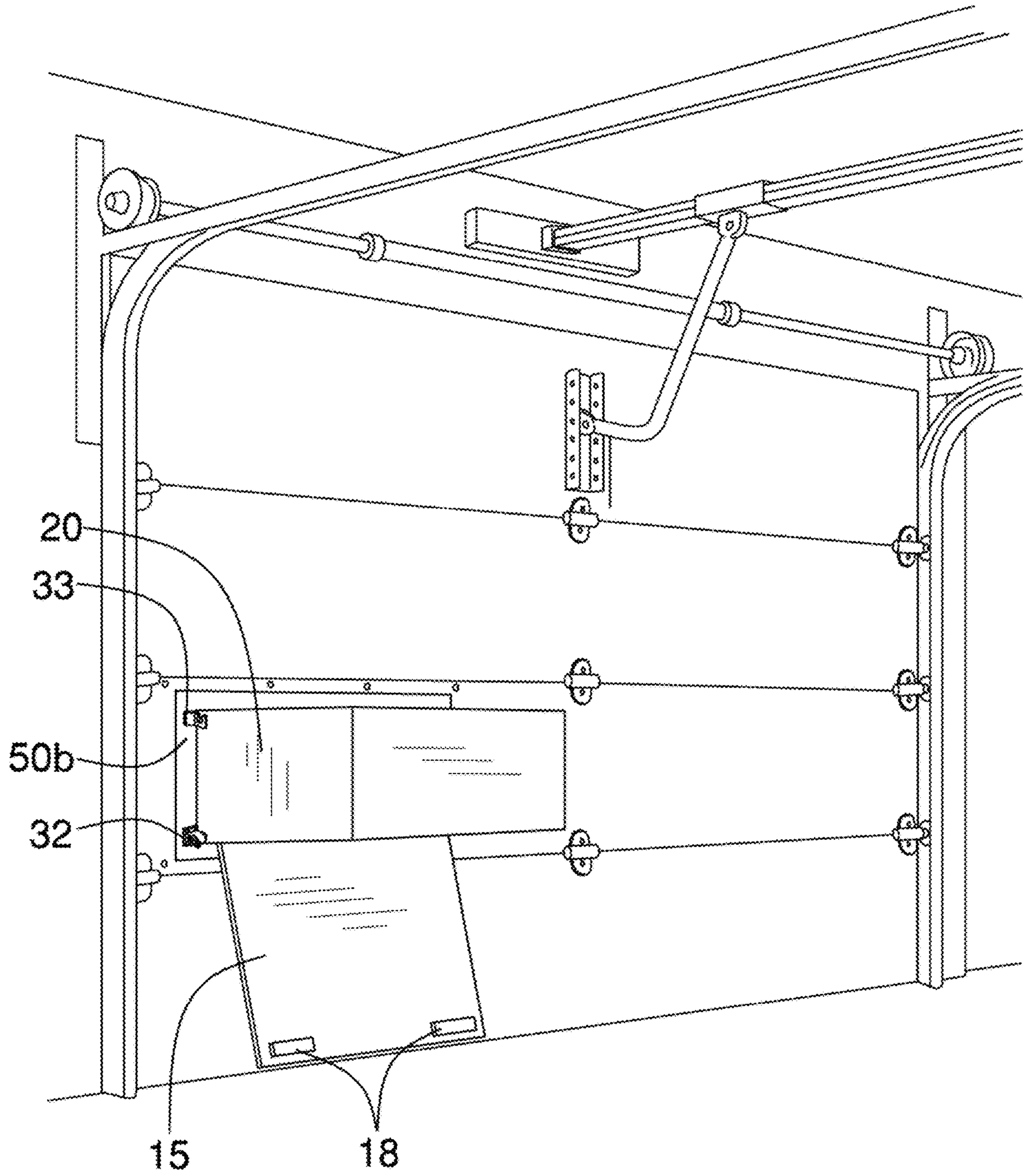


FIG. 13

GARAGE DOOR PARCEL RECEPTACLE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 62/913,727, filed on Oct. 10, 2019.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**A. Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to a parcel receptacle device that is installed in a wall or door, including a garage door, of a home or building.

B. Prior Art

Consumers are increasingly ordering more packages to be delivered to their residence and/or business. However, thieves have taken advantage of the increasingly popular deliveries by following delivery trucks, or simply waiting in or near neighborhoods for packages to be delivered. When the package is placed at the front of the residence, a thief may then walk up to the residence and steal the unsecured package. While there has been much innovation to deter theft of delivered packages, the problem persists.

The present device aims to solve this issue, by providing a device that may be attached to, and detached from, a garage door. When the device is attached, it can securely accept multiple packages throughout the day and place those packages inside the garage or home. The present device also provides an auto-locking door that automatically, and securely, closes the opening in the garage door, when the drawer and housing of the device are detached.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present application is for a parcel receptacle device that provides a drawer and housing that may be attached, and detached, from a wall or a door, including a garage door. When the parcel receptacle is attached to a garage door, it allows for one or more packages to be securely delivered by opening the drawer, inserting the package(s) into the drawer, and closing the drawer. As the drawer slides into a closed position, a drop-door in the floor of the drawer opens and allows the one or more packages to fall onto the interior floor of the garage or building whereby it is secure and hidden from public view. A housing opening is provided by the housing which allows for the drawer's drop-door to open and close.

To allow for the drawer and housing to be attached and detached, an interior mounting plate and exterior mounting plate are affixed to the garage door. The interior and exterior mounting plates each provide an opening for the drawer to slide through. The exterior mounting plate additionally provides a camera, and a doorbell to assist in deterring individuals from tampering with the device as well as notifying the recipient when a package has been delivered. The interior mounting plate provides a plurality of attachment points that allow for the drawer and housing to be attached and detached from the garage door. When the drawer and housing are detached, the interior mounting plate provides an auto-locking door, which automatically closes and locks to secure the opening in the garage door. The auto-locking door is pivotally attached to the interior mount-

ing plate and can pivot to an open position when the housing and drawer are to be reattached to the garage door.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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FIG. 1 is side view showing a garage door, a housing and a drawer disconnected from the garage door, an exterior mounting plate, an interior mounting plate, and an auto-locking door in an open position.

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FIG. 2 is a side view showing the garage door, the housing and drawer connected to the garage door, the exterior mounting plate, the interior mounting plate, and the auto-locking door in an open position.

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FIG. 3 is a front isometric view of the drawer and the housing.

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FIG. 4 is a front isometric view of the exterior mounting plate and the interior mounting plate showing the auto-locking door in a closed position and locked in place by a plurality of latch pins.

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FIG. 5 is a front in-use view of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door.

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FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in an open position.

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FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in closed position and the drop-door in an open position.

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FIG. 8 is a front isometric in-use view of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in a closed position.

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FIG. 9 is a front isometric in-use view of the parcel receptacle device showing the drawer in an open position.

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FIG. 10 is a rear isometric in-use view of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in a closed position and the drop-door in an open position.

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FIG. 11 is a front and rear isometric view of an alternative exterior mounting plate provided in a second exemplary embodiment of the parcel receptacle device.

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FIG. 12 is a front isometric in-use view of the second exemplary embodiment of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in an open position.

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FIG. 13 is a rear isometric in-use view of the second exemplary embodiment of the parcel receptacle device attached to the garage door showing the drawer in a closed position and the drop-door in an open position.

NUMBERING REFERENCE

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1—Garage door

5—Parcel receptacle device

10—Drawer

12—Drop-door hinge

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15—Drop-door

16—Plurality of rollers

17—Handle

18—Plurality of counterweights

19—Drawer opening

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20—Housing

21—Housing opening

22—Plurality of roller tracks

23—Plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers

24—Plurality of top mounting pins

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25—Exterior mounting plate

26—Camera

27—Doorbell

30—Interior mounting plate
 31—Auto-locking door
 32—Plurality of latch pins
 33—Plurality of mounting pin holders
 34—Hinge
 34a—Hinge spring
 50—Alternative exterior mounting plate
 50a—Exterior side
 50b—Interior side

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

The presently described invention is a parcel receptacle device **5**, hereinafter referred to as the device **5**, that can be installed on a wall or door of a structure such that it may accept one or more delivered packages on one side of the wall or door and securely transfer the package(s) to other side of the wall or door. This device **5** is comprised of a drawer **10** that is placed in a housing **20**. The housing **20** is attached to the wall or door with at least one mounting plate.

Although the present device **5** will henceforth be described as being attached to a garage door **1**, it is anticipated that it may also be used within a window or attached to any door or wall of a building.

First Exemplary Embodiment

A first exemplary embodiment of the device **5** provides an exterior mounting plate **25** and an interior mounting plate **30**, as shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIG. 3, the drawer **10** provides a plurality of rollers **16**, a handle **17**, a drawer opening **19**, and a drop-door **15**. The drop-door **15** is pivotally attached to the drawer **10** such that it is capable of opening and closing. The plurality of rollers **16** fit into, and roll within, the plurality of roller tracks **22** provided in the housing **20** to assist the drawer **10** in translating, relative to the housing **20**, between an open position and a closed position. In addition to the plurality of roller tracks **22**, the housing **20** also provides a plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers **23**, a plurality of top mounting pins **24**, and a housing opening **21**. The housing opening **21** allows the drop-door **15** to open and close without being obstructed by the housing **20**.

It is anticipated for the housing **20** and drawer **10** to provide a plurality of cutouts **35** to reduce the overall mass and weight of the device **5**, as shown in FIG. 6.

The garage door **1** has an exterior side and an interior side. The exterior mounting plate **25** is affixed to the exterior side of the garage door **1**, and the interior mounting plate **30** is affixed to the interior side of the garage door **1**, which is shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. The exterior mounting plate **25** provides an exterior mounting plate opening, a camera **26**, and a doorbell **27**. It is anticipated that the camera **26** and the doorbell **27** may be linked wirelessly to an online network accessible by computer or mobile communication device. The exterior mounting plate opening has a width and height that are less than the width and height of the width and height of the housing **20**.

The interior mounting plate **30** provides an interior mounting plate opening, an auto-locking door **31**, a plurality of latch pins **32**, a hinge **34**, and a plurality of mounting pin holders **33** that cradle the plurality of top mounting pins **24**. The interior mounting plate opening has a width and height that are substantially equal to or greater than the width and height of the housing **20**. The hinge **34** further provides a hinge spring **34a** which provides a rotational restoring force

that assists the auto-locking door **31** to pivot about the hinge **34** to a closed position. Upon substantially reaching the closed position, the plurality of latch pins **32** automatically lock and secure the auto-locking door **31** to prevent opening from the exterior side of the auto-locking door **31**.

As FIG. 1 shows, when the auto-locking door **31** is rotated to an open position, it allows for housing **20** to attach to the interior mounting plate **30**. The housing **20** is inserted into the interior mounting plate opening such that the plurality of top mounting pins **24** are supported by the plurality of mounting pin holders **33**. Additionally, the plurality of latch pins **32** provided on the interior mounting plate, substantially align with, and are accepted by, the plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers **23**. Accordingly, the plurality of latch pins **32** being inserted into the plurality of mounting pin receivers **23** allow for a secondary support for the housing **20** when it is attached to the interior mounting plate **30**. The auto-locking door **31** further assists in stabilizing the housing **20** by providing as a counterweight for the housing **20** when the drawer **10** is open and assists in providing addition securement of the housing **20** to the interior mounting plate **30**.

Once the housing **20** is attached to the interior mounting plate **30**, the auto-locking door **31** is prevented from closing. Accordingly, the drawer **10**, which can either be inserted into the housing **20** before or after the housing **20** is attached to the interior mounting plate **30**, can translate to an open position when pulled by its handle **17**. Once the drawer **10** is opened, as shown in FIG. 9, the package is placed on top of the drop-door **15**.

After the package is placed on the drop-door **15**, the drawer **10** can then translate towards a closed position within the housing **20**. As the drawer **10** translates towards a closed position, the drop-door **15** begins to pivot about a drop-door hinge **12** due to the weight of the package. As the drop-door **15** pivots about the drop-door hinge **12**, the drop-door **15** passes through the housing opening **21**. The package, which was placed on top of the drop-door **15**, eventually falls to the floor on the interior side of the garage door **1** once the inclination of the drop-door **15** is large enough to allow the package to fall to the floor. Once the package is released, the drawer **10** may be reopened to receive another package. Consequently, the device **5** cleverly and securely transfers one or more delivered packages from the exterior side of the garage door **1** to the interior side of the garage door **1** such that the package is out of view from potential thieves. It is anticipated, and shown in FIG. 3, that the drop-door **15** may provide a plurality of counterweights **18** to assist the drop-door **15** in opening as the drawer **10** translates towards a closed position within the housing **20**. Additionally, it is anticipated that the drop-door **15** may be comprised of a singular panel which is attached at the drop-door hinge **12**, which is shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 7; or, alternatively, is comprised of a plurality of panels wherein each panel of the plurality of panels is attached to one another with at least one single directional hinge (not shown).

In anticipation that the garage door **1** will likely be opened and closed, the housing **20** is designed to be removed from the interior mounting plate **30**. When the housing **20** is detached from the interior mounting plate **30**, the auto-locking door **31** pivots downward about the hinge **34** and the plurality of latch pins **32** engage the auto-locking door **31** such that it is locked in place. This allows for the garage door **1** to remain secure should the drawer **10** and housing **20** be detached from the interior mounting plate **30**.

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In order to reattach the housing 20 to the interior mounting plate 30, the plurality of latch pins 32 are required to be disengaged to allow the auto-locking door 31 to pivot upward, as shown in FIG. 1. Once the auto-locking door 31 is opened to a pre-determined position, the drawer 10 and housing 20 can then be reattached to the interior mounting plate 30.

Second Exemplary Embodiment

A second exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides an alternative exterior mounting plate 50 and omits the required use of the interior mounting plate 30. The alternative exterior mounting plate 50 has an exterior side 50a and interior side 50b. The exterior side 50a provides the camera 26 and doorbell 27, and the interior side 50b provides the auto-locking door 31, the plurality of latch pins 32, and the plurality of mounting pin holders 33, as shown in FIG. 11. The housing 20 attaches to the interior side 50b of the alternative exterior mounting plate 50, as shown in FIG. 13.

The auto-locking door 31 is attached to the interior side 50b with a hinge 34 and hinge spring 34a. Accordingly, the auto-locking door 31 is raised prior to attachment of the housing 20 and is automatically and securely locked upon removal of the housing 20.

It is anticipated that the housing 20 and drawer 10 in the second exemplary embodiment may provide a plurality of cutouts 35 (not shown).

While the embodiments of the invention have been disclosed, certain modifications may be made by those skilled in the art to modify the invention without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The inventor claims:

1. A parcel receptacle device for installing on a structure, the parcel receptacle device comprising:

- a. an exterior mounting plate;
 - wherein the exterior mounting plate provides an exterior mounting plate opening;
- b. an interior mounting plate;
 - wherein the interior mounting plate provides an interior mounting plate opening;
 - wherein the interior mounting plate provides a plurality of mounting pin holders;
 - wherein the interior mounting plate provides a hinge;
 - wherein the interior mounting plate provides an auto-locking door;
 - wherein the auto-locking door is pivotally attached to the hinge;
 - wherein the interior mounting plate provides a plurality of latch pins;
- c. a housing;
 - wherein the housing can be attached to and detached from the interior mounting plate;
 - wherein the housing provides a plurality of top mounting pins;
 - wherein the housing provides a plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers;
 - wherein the housing provides a housing opening;
- d. a drawer;
 - wherein the drawer is capable of translating relative to the housing;
 - wherein the drawer provides a drop-door hinge;
 - wherein the drawer provides a drop-door;
 - wherein the drop-door is pivotally attached to the drop-door hinge.

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2. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the exterior mounting plate provides a camera.

3. The parcel receptacle device of claim 2, wherein the camera is linked wirelessly to an online network accessible by computer or mobile communication device.

4. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the exterior mounting plate provides a doorbell.

5. The parcel receptacle device of claim 4, wherein the doorbell is linked wirelessly to an online network accessible by computer or mobile communication device.

6. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the hinge provides a hinge spring.

7. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the drop-door provides a plurality of counterweights.

8. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the drawer provides a plurality of rollers and the housing provides a plurality of roller tracks.

9. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the drawer provides a handle.

10. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of latch pins automatically lock the auto-locking door in a closed position when the housing is detached from the interior mounting plate.

11. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers accepts the plurality of latch pins.

12. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of mounting pin holders accepts the plurality of top mounting pins.

13. The parcel receptacle device of claim 1, wherein the housing provides a plurality of cutouts.

14. A parcel receptacle device comprising:

- a. an exterior mounting plate;
 - wherein the exterior mounting plate provides an exterior mounting plate opening;
 - wherein the exterior mounting plate provides an exterior side and an interior side;
 - wherein the interior side provides a plurality of mounting pin holders;
 - wherein the interior side provides a hinge;
 - wherein the interior side provides an auto-locking door;
 - wherein the auto-locking door is pivotally attached to the hinge;
 - wherein the interior side provides a plurality of latch pins;
- b. a housing;
 - wherein the housing can be attached to and detached from the interior side of the exterior mounting plate;
 - wherein the housing provides a plurality of top mounting pins;
 - wherein the housing provides a plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers;
 - wherein the housing provides a housing opening;
- c. a drawer;
 - wherein the drawer is capable of translating relative to the housing;
 - wherein the drawer provides a drop-door hinge;
 - wherein the drawer provides a drop-door;
 - wherein the drop-door is pivotally attached to the drop-door hinge.

15. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the exterior mounting plate provides a camera.

16. The parcel receptacle device of claim 15, wherein the camera is linked wirelessly to an online network accessible by computer or mobile communication device.

17. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the exterior mounting plate provides a doorbell.

18. The parcel receptacle device of claim 17, wherein the doorbell is linked wirelessly to an online network accessible by computer or mobile communication device.

19. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the hinge provides a hinge spring. 5

20. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the drop-door provides a plurality of counterweights.

21. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the drawer provides a plurality of rollers and the housing provides a plurality of roller tracks. 10

22. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the drawer provides a handle.

23. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of latch pins automatically lock the auto-locking door in a closed position when the housing is detached from the exterior mounting plate. 15

24. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of bottom mounting pin receivers accepts the plurality of latch pins.

25. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of mounting pin holders accepts the plurality of top mounting pins. 20

26. The parcel receptacle device of claim 14, wherein the housing provides a plurality of cutouts. 25

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